

**George Washington to William Alexander, Lord Stirling,
August 28, 1779, two same date, The Writings of George
Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources,
1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, August 28[–29], 1779.

My Lord: The arrival of Arbuthnot which comes to me, through different channels, makes it prudent to draw our force more together till we can ascertain the amount of the reinforcement, by which we may form a better judgment what it will be practicable for the enemy to undertake. Your Lordship will therefore be pleased to march towards Junes leaving a regiment at Suffran's to give countenance to the country and cover our convoys and Magazines. Major Lees corps will be ordered to resume its former position in the vicinity of that place and cooperate with the regiment you leave. In your march to Junes you need only consult the convenience of your men and move as leisurely as you please. Lt Col Washington is on his march from Trenton with a part of Baylor's Regiment. I wish him to be halted some where in your quarter, where he may be *in security* and interfere as little as possible with the forage on the communication. As your Lordship is best acquainted with the Country I shall be obliged to you to determine the spot and write a line by the dragoon to Col Washington who is desired to comply with your directions. I am, etc.

29th. I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that I have just seen in a Boston paper of the 23d, brought in the Salem Packet thirty days from Bilboa, A Manifesto from His Catholic Majesty delivered at the Court of London by the Marquis D'Almodovar amounting to a declaration of Hostilities and a Message from the British King to the House

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of commons announcing the declaration. The Spanish Ambassador is retired from London and the English Ambassador recalled from Madrid. The French and Spanish fleet at sea amounting to 70 sail of the line.¹

¹he draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.